

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus are provided for authenticating a user using verbal information verification techniques. The user is challenged with one or more questions that the user has previously answered. A user's spoken utterances are first processed using automatic speech recognition techniques, and optionally utterance verification techniques. The recognized text that has been extracted from the user's spoken words is compared with the information recorded in a user profile corresponding to the answers provided by the user during the enrollment phase, using word spotting techniques. If the user's spoken answer is correct, the user may obtain access to a protected resource. If the user's spoken answer provided during verification deviates from the answer that was provided during enrollment, the disclosed verbal input verification server can still correctly recognize the answer.

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